


Education and Training Voucher Program

The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program makes financial resources available to assist youth aging out of foster care or adopted after turning age 16 with post-secondary education and training expenses while enrolled in a qualified higher education program. The ETV program was established in 2001 by Congress as a part of the *Promoting Safe and Stable Families Act*.

-  **ETV provides:**
- » Up to \$5,000 per student per year (based on available funds) to help cover educational expenses
 - » Funds for eligible youth who attend post-secondary education institutions or vocational training programs



Eligibility Requirements

16-21 years old



- ☐ Must be currently in foster care or must have aged out of foster care
- ☐ If adopted, youth must have been adopted after turning age 16
- ☐ Must hold a high school diploma, GED or equivalent
- ☐ Must have an approved ETV Student Application on file at the local department of social services (LDSS) that most recently held custody
- ☐ Must re-apply annually to remain eligible
- ☐ Must have applied for financial aid (if applicable) and provided documentation for their case record
- ☐ Must maintain a 2.0/4.0 grade point average or be making satisfactory progress, depending on their degree or certificate program
- ☐ Must have initiated use of ETV funds prior to turning 21

21-23 years old

- ☐ Must meet all eligibility requirements listed for youth ages 16-21 with the exception of being eligible for Independent Living Program (ILP) services
- ☐ Must participate in the ETV program prior to turning 21
- ☐ May utilize ETV funds until the day they turn 23



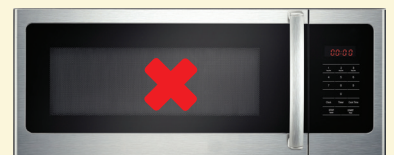
ETV-Eligible Expenses:

- » Tuition, fees
- » Room and board
- » Rental or purchase of educational equipment, including laptop, printer, software, computer accessories
- » Books and supplies
- » Required residential training related to an educational or vocational program
- » Special study projects related to education
- » Transportation and child care costs



ETV Non-approved Items:

- × Medical and dental visits
- × Household appliances and supplies
- × Dorm room or apartment furnishings
- × GED tutoring



Please e-mail ILP.ETV@dss.virginia.gov for detailed information on eligible expenses and non-approved items.



Cost of Attendance

The total cost of attendance is an estimate of what it costs for a typical student to attend an academic or vocational post-secondary program. Cost of attendance not only covers tuition but also takes into account basic living expenses, such as room and board, transportation and child care costs. The government website, www.nces.ed.gov, lists standard tuition and fees plus room and board costs for any institution receiving federal Pell Grant funding.

The ETV program provides funding up to \$5,000 per year OR the total cost of attendance per year (whichever is less) per eligible youth. Total cost of attendance takes into account any financial aid award allocations a youth will receive as well.



Application Process

- » Youth completes an ETV Student Application with the assistance of a LDSS case worker and submits the application to the LDSS holding custody. Youth who are adopted, no longer receiving ILP services or no longer in LDSS custody, should contact the LDSS that most recently held custody
- » LDSS processes the application within 2 weeks of receipt and notifies student of funding
- » Youth re-applies annually, with assistance of case worker
- » LDSS worker ensures continued student eligibility throughout the school year

For more information about the ETV program contact your local department of social services or the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) at (804) 726-7905 or ILP.ETV@dss.virginia.gov.

Visit www.vailp.com for information on Services for Older Youth.



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES